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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

March 21, 1983
Hometown (1)

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Lola Burnham is editor-in-chief of The Daily Eastern News, the student newspaper of Eastern Illinois University.

Lola, daughter of Charles and Virgene Burnham of 601 S. Main, Virginia, is a 1979 graduate of Virginia High School. She is a journalism major and english minor at EIU.

A senior, Lola said journalism is what she does best, therefore she has made a career out of it. She said she was first attracted to journalism at age 14 when she read a book about it. At 16 she applied for a job at her local newspaper and was employed as a typesetter. After a year at that job, she became a reporter.

She began her collegiate journalism career as a reporter for the campus, activities and administration staffs and a wire editor. She was voted the Outstanding Freshman Journalism award by the News.

During her sophomore year she became an assistant night editor, and her junior year she was promoted to government editor. She moved to assistant news editor in January 1982, then to editor-in-chief in April 1982.

Lola believes journalism is a very important profession. "It is really important that people know what is going on around them and it is my job to keep them informed," she said.

She said her career goal is to be a reporter on an Illinois newspaper, then return to college to earn a Masters Degree and become a college instructor.

As editor-in-chief of the News, Lola's duties are to oversee the operation of putting together each day's paper. She supervises 10 writing staffs, each consisting of approximately 20 reporters and editors,

Burnham

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supervises the advertising and business departments and makes executive decisions concerning the operation of the newspaper.

Lola is also a member of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, an honorary organization for college journalism students who have shown talent and desire to achieve through their work on one of EIU's publications.

She is a member of the Society for Professional Journalists and Kappa Tau Alpha, an honorary organization for journalism students with high grade point averages.

Lola also made the Dean's List, a recognition of academic excellence in Fall 1979 and Spring 1982.

The Daily Eastern News has won many awards, including an All-American rating from the Associated Collegiate Press every year since 1973, and was recently chosen as one of five finalists for ACP's coveted Pacemaker Award, which recognizes the best college newspaper in the country.

The Journalism Department, which sponsors the News, recently received national accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications for excellence in their curriculum and student activities. Eastern became one of only 85 schools in the nation to be accredited out of approximately 300 schools which have journalism majors.